

12 December 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Attached invitation from the Committee for Economic Development

1. CED is considering launching an inquiry (on an unclassified basis) into the threat to our national security and the program needed to meet it. They are calling a preliminary off-the-record meeting of experts to advise them as to the questions such an inquiry should attempt to answer. They have asked me to participate in this discussion.

2. As you will note from my pencil marks, they are asking primarily for sensible questions rather than for answers, and none of the comments made by any participant will be released.

3. The Research and Policy Committee of the CED is without question one of the most influential and at the same time most objective citizen groups in the country. It is clearly important to the carrying out of public policy that they should be given as much guidance as possible.

4. Were I to accept their invitation I would, of course, be most careful neither to reveal classified information nor to discuss our present estimates of Soviet economic capabilities. The guidance I could supply would be limited to suggesting issues which they should investigate in their study and questions to which they should try to find answers. I might suggest that I was participating as a member of the faculty of M.I.T. rather than as an official of CIA.

5. Do you think I should accept? I should rather like to as I believe I could be discreet, but I will, of course, follow your advice in the matter.

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MAX F. MILLIKAN

enclosure

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